

## Harestones Primary Parent Discussion Forum

### Minute of Meeting

Held in Harestones Primary School on Tuesday 3 March 2026

Present: Mrs Jillian Grant (Head Teacher)  
Michelle Meechan (Vice-Chair)  
Heidi Cochrane (Acting Depute Head Teacher)  
Donna Male  
Caroline Halkett  
Lisa Reynolds  
Katie Montgomery

1. Welcome, Michelle Meechan welcomes everyone present

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Keri Khan and Michelle MacDonald.

3. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting were adopted as being correct by Mrs Reynolds and seconded by Mrs Halkett.

4. Matters Arising

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

5. Councillors Update

As there were no Councillors present, there was no Councillor's update.

6. Consultation on Relationship Policy

Jillian advised meeting that the policy circulated had been discussed by teaching staff during the recent inset day and had been amended to take into account their feedback. Jillian was keen to find out if the policy reflected parents understanding. It was suggested that the policy was too lengthy for parents to digest and perhaps when issuing to parents the salient points should be highlighted and that would be more acceptable. It was also suggested that text be easier to read/understand with less jargon. It was also suggested that documentation issued in PDF format. Jillian advised document would be rolled out to parents shortly.

7. HT update

Jillian advised that term 2 and 3 have been very busy and work to improve relationships across the school through leadership opportunities continue.

#### Staffing

Jillian advised that the Depute Head Teachers post had been advertised and interviews would take place on 20 March. Mrs Cochrane would remain in post as Acting Depute Head Teacher meantime.

We have additional support in the form of Daniella O'Donnell and Jessikah Graham. Daniella is providing literacy support and Jessikah is providing numeracy support to individuals and small groups.

Mrs Adam is now back in post and Miss Jenny, SLA, has now left us and replaced by Miss Maryna. Miss Winchester is also back with us after being off for a period of time.

### Breakfast Club

This is funded by EDC through the Scottish Government. Mrs Summers leads this project from 8.00am – 8.50am each morning with support from Jillian and Heidi. The project currently supports 12 children and from 19 February we have been able to provide 15 grab bags to children unable to attend the club. These provide a breakfast on the go, or a snack for break time.

### Playground

We have received a donation of another container for the playground to store our bikes and free up much needed space in the school. We have also purchased loose parts play equipment for children to play with, with the support of staff.

### Crossing Patrol

The crossing patrol ended on 27 February and children have had an assembly and lessons in class on how to use the new puffin crossing which has been installed.

### Mobile Phones

EDC have now launched a policy on mobile phones in primary schools and our policy will be in line with this and published on our school website.

The policy is:-

- Pupils are strongly encouraged to leave personal mobile devices at home.
- Where mobiles phones are brought solely for use during travel to and from school (eg. For safety, communication during pickups or family transition arrangements) they must remain switched off and stored securely in school bags throughout the school day.
- Smartwatches must be set to airplane mode, to disable messaging, notifications and camera functions.
- Personal mobile phones and smartwatches must not be used during lessons and not used during lunch or interval.
- Exceptions may be granted for medical, communication or additional support needs, with parental agreement and Head Teacher approval. If use of mobile devices is permitted clear expectations and boundaries must be established to promote wellbeing, inclusion and responsible use.
- All parent/carer communication should be directed through the school office.

### Whole Family Wellbeing Fund

New Roots continue to work with a targeted group of pupils and like with Kirkintilloch High senior pupil support.

There is a Meet the Team event on 20 and 21 March and a group of our P6 pupils will attend on 20 March to learn about what's on offer. Families are also welcome to attend.

### Family Engagement & Learning

This term we have had the following family engagement events:-

Burns Assembly  
P7 Transition Family Learning  
Families Connect  
Sharing the Learning Assemblies  
Parents Evening  
School Show

Mrs Summers was successful in apply for vouchers from Scotmid to support cooking across the school. These vouches total £320.

### Events

We had a very successful Day with a Difference linked to the World at Work. The children really enjoyed this event and we are looking at how we can develop and improve this event in the future. There are many opportunities for parents to be involved in supporting with this.

There was an ELR Focus Visit in November and this highlighted some strengths and next steps. The next meeting will be in March.

P5 and P6 are enjoying weekly music tuition and they will be putting on a concert for families in June.

### School Improvement Plan

The Relationship Policy has had feedback from staff, which was positive. There have been some additional suggestions and feedback on the layout and feedback from parents and pupils will also be taken into consideration, linking with other professionals who come into school. This will then reflect our new vision, values and aims in due course.

We will be using the Circle to support participation for all children.

We are going to explore effective teaching of writing that meets the needs of our children.

We will ensure consistency in our learning environment to support all children to be able to access resources and learning, focusing on emotional literacy - zones of regulations.

Staff have carried out a self-evaluation process and pupils will complete theirs during leadership groups. Parent self-evaluation will help inform us of our priorities for next session and parents will be encouraged to complete this during parent's night on 5 March.

#### 8. Chairpersons Update

As Mrs MacDonald was absent from the meeting, there was no Chairperson's update

#### 9. AOCB

Caroline Halkett advised that the Christmas Fayre had been well supported and raised approximately £1,500. Due to PVG issues there had been no Halloween Disco.

Jillian advised that free PVG's could be obtained through Connect Scotland with an additional £20 per PVG payable to allow the person to attend school trips.

Jillian also advised that trips were very expensive and that we would be having a fundraiser to help subsidise buses, after Easter.

Spring Fayre would be held on 4 June with all the usual events, and a teddy tombola. There would also be a few stalls outside. Could a local business be asked to supply a text? Heidi could perhaps supply something and she will report back in this connection. It was also suggested that we have a themed raffle for the fayre and a letter would be prepared to send to parents.

It was considered useful that the PTA have a table at the fayre to try and promote it within the school and gain new members. It would also be useful for someone to represent the PTA at P1 induction.

It was suggested that we have more games at the fayre for small prizes. Lisa, Michelle and Caroline would look into this.

The PTA didn't have a new bank account as yet, as they wanted to ascertain the position with banks in the local area closing.

Caroline advised the PTA would pay for the P7 ties and give £100 for the leaver's trip.

Caroline asked about the position regarding the Constitution and Jillian advised this was still to be looked at.

#### 10. Date of the next meeting:

The next meeting of the Forum will be held on Tuesday 5 May 2026 at 5.45pm within Harestanes Primary.